

LAMB HEALTH CARE FOUNDATION

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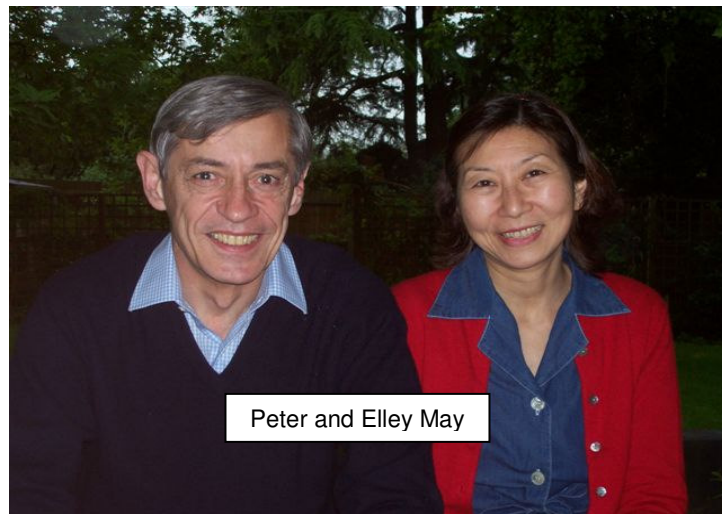
Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all as together we support the work of the LAMB Project.

Allow me to stretch your imagination for a moment to a typical day in LAMB's area in the north-west corner of Bangladesh where an average of 450 patients will be visiting LAMB or one of its satellite clinics for treatment. In addition, 230 field staff will be out and about, teaching, measuring, weighing and encouraging. Such a huge amount of daily activity relies heavily on clear leadership, and this year will see big changes. Mark Pietroni, who has been the Project Director for the past 5 years, is moving to Dhaka to become the Hospital Director of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR-B). We wish him very well in that important move! The new Project Director will be Peter May. Peter comes from a business background, having worked with Kafco Fertiliser in Bangladesh for the last three years, so the country is not unfamiliar to him. The board of trustees of LHCF met with him and his wife Elley recently.



The Pietroni Family



Peter and Elley May

I would like to share with you two true stories. 74 'micro-credit' groups, each with 15-30 women in them, have been set up in the communities near to LAMB. They meet weekly with a LAMB 'credit supervisor to talk about any health problems, their children's education, income generating or any problem they are facing. One of the highlights of 2006 was an evaluation of this work by Tear Fund which was very positive. Nargis Begum joined one of these groups in 1997. She took her first loan of 1000 Taka (about £8) in 2000, and bought a goat, which she later sold at a profit. She was

then able to take out a larger loan. She has repaid all her loans and she would now be eligible to borrow 8000 Taka should she wish. She has three cows, a two-room house made with mud and straw, a sanitary latrine and a tubewell on her own land. Her husband is a farmer. Their three sons are going to school, and there is little doubt that Nargis' life is easier and more stable. She has become a village health volunteer and a leader of her micro credit group.



The second story is of Joymuddin, a poor 55 year old man, who cannot work because of his weak chest and so he begs. He lives in Parbatipur, about 2km from the hospital. He started coming to LAMB five years ago with his asthma and chest problems. He weighs 38kg (about 6 stones). One of LHCF's trustees, Richard Todd, met him on one of his hospital visits where he was prescribed medicines that cost 52 Taka - about 40p. It was obvious to the medical assistant that Joymuddin would need the Poor Fund to pick up his bill. When holding his hand to say good bye he sobbed in appreciation of the kindness shown him. Richard writes, *'It felt all wrong that our lives are so different, and that his is so hard with every day being a struggle to get enough to eat, let alone anything more. I thank God for meeting Joymuddin and being brought face to face with the hard life of many people in God's world'*. It seems unlikely that 40p can make such a difference to someone's life, but that is a daily reality at LAMB.

The three year project financed by the Department for International Development (DfID) here in the UK to develop and expand LAMB's services, has now been running for a year and good progress has been made. Extra staff have been recruited and trained. The new emphasis on women's rights has been communicated through community groups, drama and folk songs. Work has started in two new places: Damordapur, a rural area with 30,000 people where a new clinic is nearing completion; and Parbatipur, the local town - the first time that LAMB has worked in an urban setting. Other highlights of the year include the first full time community chaplain starting work, and the finishing of the construction of a new training centre.

We have our web site up and running: www.lhcf.org.uk. Do have a look - your comments are welcome. This was partly paid for by the DfID grant as a contribution to disseminating the way LAMB operates. We need to tell more people about the good work going on in this corner of Bangladesh! As the project grows we need to continue our support, by prayer and financially; if you would like us to send you regular prayer updates please let us know, and if you would like someone to come and speak about the project at your church, get in touch. Thank you for the part you play in making all this possible,

Yours sincerely,

Dr Rosemary Croft, *On behalf of the LAMB Health Care Foundation*
NB Financial sheet enclosed